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upper forward arm 442b of the pawl 440b, pushing the pawl 400b towards its horizontal position. As the pawl 400b rotates, the pawl's rearward arm 446b pushes the pawl retaining arm 700b rearward, permitting the pawl 400b to rotate into a horizontal position. Once the pawl 400b is horizontal, the pawl-retaining arm 700b moves forward under spring pressure, to a position above the pawl's rear arm 446b thereby stopping counterclockwise rotation of the pawl 400b. The keeper 600 is thereby secured with the channel 448b, and by the channel 114b in the housing 100b.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 37 and 54.

1 ~~23~~. (Amended) A gravity-sensitive latch comprising:

a housing;

a handle pivotally secured to said housing, said handle pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position;

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a pawl pivotally secured to said housing, said pawl being dimensioned and configured to engage a keeper, said pawl pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position;

a pawl-retaining arm pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position;

a pendulum pivotally secured to said pawl-retaining arm, said pendulum being dimensioned and configured to abut said handle, said pendulum pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position; and

means for pivotally securing said housing and said pawl-retaining arm,

wherein said pawl includes an upper forward arm and a lower forward arm extending toward said handle, a channel between said forward arms, and a third arm extending rearward, said third arm is dimensioned and configured to engage said pawl-retaining arm, said forward arms are dimensioned and configured to secure a keeper, said pawl pivots between said latched position wherein said forward

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arms are substantially horizontal, and said unlatched position wherein said forward arms point downward.

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~~A 26.~~ (Amended) The gravity-sensitive latch according to claim ~~23~~, wherein: said housing includes a front end, a central portion defining a channel dimensioned and configured to receive said pawl and a keeper, and a rear portion having at least one aperture for attachment to said means for pivotally securing said housing and said pawl-retaining arm, said means for pivotally securing said housing and said pawl-retaining arm comprising a pin, said channel dimensioned and configured to pivotally secure said pawl within said housing and

said handle includes a vertical portion, a horizontal portion, and a rear end dimensioned and configured to engage with said front end of said housing.

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~~18. 41.~~ (Amended) A gravity-sensitive latch comprising:
a housing;
a button supported for slidable movement relative to said housing, said button secured to said housing;
a pendulum operatively connected to said button, said pendulum pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position;
a pawl pivotally secured to said pendulum, said pawl being dimensioned and configured to engage a keeper, said pawl pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position; and
means for pivotally securing said housing and said pawl-retaining arm,
wherein said means for pivotally securing said housing and said pawl is a rod.

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~~58.~~ (Amended) A gravity-sensitive latch comprising:
a housing;
a handle secured to said housing;
a pendulum operatively in communication with said handle, said pendulum pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position;